



Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

DRY, HOT WEATHER DOMINATED TENNESSEE AGRICULTURE DURING AUGUST

NASHVILLE, September 12, 2011 –The dry, hot weather pattern that started in earnest in early August persisted to month's end. Burley tobacco and double crop soybean yield potential and pasture conditions were especially affected. Corn and cotton, however, were generally spared and are anticipated to produce respectable yields. State Director, Debra Kenerson stated "While significant welcomed rainfall arrived in early September, this forecast is based on September 1 crop conditions." She further added "Future forecasts will be centered around normal temperatures and precipitation for the remainder of the season." In brief, a September 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the following: **Corn**, 137 bushels per acre, up 20 bushels from last year's yield of 117 bushels; **Cotton**, 823 pounds per acre, down 22 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, 34 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels per acre from 2010, but down 2 bushels from the August forecast; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,800 pounds per acre, up 140 pounds per acre from last year, but down 100 pounds from last month.

2011 COTTON PRODUCTION TO GET A BOOST FROM EXPANDED ACREAGE

Tennessee's cotton production is projected at 840,000 bales, up 23 percent from last year's production of 681,000 bales. Cotton yields are forecast to average 823 pounds per acre, down 22 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 490,000 acres, up 103,000 acres from 2010. Tennessee's cotton crop is rated in good-to-excellent condition, but is about a week behind normal development. Excellent heat units during August advanced crop maturity to only a week behind schedule compared with over two weeks late a month earlier. Unfortunately, a lack of sufficient moisture in some areas had led to the crop shedding many small bolls. Slightly more than a third of the cotton acreage has bolls opening.

SOYBEAN YIELD PROSPECTS DIMMED UNDER INTENSE HEAT AND LACK OF MOISTURE

Soybean production is anticipated to be 45.6 million bushels, up 4 percent from last year, but down 6 percent from the August 1 forecast. Soybean yields are projected at 34.0 bushels per acre, an increase of 3 bushels per acre from 2010, but down 2 bushels per acre from last month. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.34 million acres, down 70,000 from a year ago. Soybean yield prospects declined during August as most areas of the State received less than adequate moisture for good pod-set and pod development. The double-cropped soybeans were particularly affected. The crop is developing a week to ten days behind normal and is setting and filling pods. Only 48 percent of the soybean crop is rated in good-to-excellent condition compared to 78 percent one month ago.

SECOND HIGHEST CORN PRODUCTION ON RECORD PREDICTED

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 97.3 million bushels, up approximately 30 percent from a year ago, and, if realized, would be the highest production on record since 1917. Yields are expected to average 137 bushels per acre, an increase of 20 bushels per acre from 2010, and 14 bushels better than the 5-year average. Farmers plan to harvest 710,000 acres for grain, 70,000 more acres than last year. Harvest has begun on the early planted acres with good results. Producers have noted that overall yield results will be very good, especially early harvested corn, but expect a less than optimal outcome for late-planted corn. Roughly 60 percent of the state's corn crop has reached maturity and almost a quarter of the crop has been harvested. The majority of this year's corn crop is rated in good-to-excellent condition.

(OVER)

ANOTHER SUB-PAR YEAR FORECAST FOR BURLEY TOBACCO

Burley production is forecasted to reach 28.8 million pounds, down 5 percent from last month's estimate, but up 16 percent from last year's poor season. The average yield is forecast at 1,800 pounds per acre, up 140 pounds from last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 16,000 acres, an increase of 1,000 acres from 2010. Burley tobacco yield prospects were promising one month ago as an average yielding crop was forecast. Unfortunately, very little general rainfall occurred in most of the major tobacco producing counties during August. Small areas of very good burley tobacco exist in the same general vicinity as poor tobacco. Some late-set burley tobacco may not be cut, even if rainfall comes soon. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are estimated to remain at 2,950 pounds per acre. Dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,600 pounds per acre, down a 100 pounds per acre from a month ago, but equal to 2010's yield.

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2010	Indicated 2011	2010	Indicated 2011	2010	Indicated 2011
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	7,500	8,500
Corn for grain	bu.	640	710	117	137	74,880	97,270
Cotton ¹	lb.	387	490	845	823	681	840
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,950	1,900	2.10	2.30	4,095	4,370
Soybeans	bu.	1,410	1,340	31.0	34.0	43,710	45,560
Tobacco, All	lb.	22.3	24.2	2,051	2,172	45,740	52,570
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.2	7.0	2,900	2,950	17,980	20,650
Burley	lb.	15.0	16.0	1,660	1,800	24,900	28,800
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.1	1.2	2,600	2,600	2,860	3,120
Winter Wheat	bu.	180	310	53.0	70.0	9,540	21,700
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,301,600	9,511,800
Corn for grain	bu.	81,446	84,388	152.8	153.0	12,446,865	12,497,070
Cotton ¹	lb.	10,698.7	9,849.5	812	822	18,104.1	16,556.2
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,906	38,276	1.95	1.75	77,653	67,002
Soybeans	bu.	76,616	73,823	43.5	41.8	3,329,341	3,085,340
Tobacco, All	lb.	337.5	337.4	2,130	1,875	718,883	632,679
Dark fire-cured	lb.	15.65	16.70	3,091	3,115	48,379	52,020
Burley	lb.	97.6	90.0	1,922	1,890	187,570	170,100
Dark air-cured	lb.	5.5	5.4	2,760	2,833	15,180	15,300
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,749	32,307	46.8	46.3	1,485,236	1,497,429

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

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